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FEC Comment Submission (johnedwards.com)

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Comment: I am writing to comment on Draft Advisory Opinion 2007-31. I urge the Commission to reject Draft AO 2007-31, and permit individual credit card contributions made online through ActBlue to be matched under the Matching Fund Act.

As a supporter of public financing, I believe the Commission should be removing obstacles for presidential candidates to participate in the matching funds system. The Commission should be embracing new technologies and grassroots financing of presidential campaigns. Draft AO 2007-31, on the other hand, would have the Commission erect new barriers to participation in matching funds.

I understand that individuals' contributions through a presidential candidate's web site are readily matchable. Why should an online contribution through ActBlue be any less matchable? The draft advisory opinion barely addresses this question, much less provides an answer, and it should therefore be rejected by the Commission.

When I made my contribution through ActBlue, I expected the donation to go to him just as though I had written a personal check to his campaign. It was just much easier to put in my credit card information online. It never occurred to me that there would be a penalty for this convenience.

If people know that the spirit of the law is being turned upside down for technical details, they will have less respect for the law. The spirit of this law is moved forward immeasurably by matching ActBlue donations.

Thank you.